

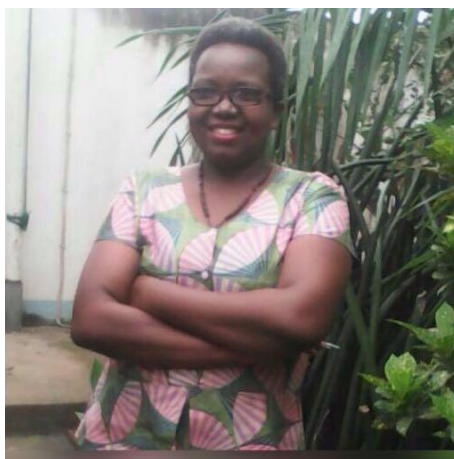
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 129 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 24 – 30 September 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 30 September 2018, Iteka has documented at least 496 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

**CNDD-FDD** : *National Council for the Defense of Democracy*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *Front for National Liberation*

**FRODEBU** : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

**MSD** : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

**ONG** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**PRODEFI** : *Branch Development Program*

**RANAC** : *Radio France International*

**REGIDESO** : *Water and Electricity Supply Company*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**VBG** : *Gender based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 9 people killed including 2 corpses found, 5 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

Among then victims are 7 women killed including 1 minor.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police and administration officials are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

This bulletin notes cases of killings, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

The phenomenon of bodies found is reported in this bulletin

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE***

##### **A person killed in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On September 26, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Sampeke hill, Bigina zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, a man named Edouard, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was killed stabbed and his house burned by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, political reasons are the cause of the crime.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A person killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On 26 September 2018, at Nyamakarabo hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Japhet Mpawenayo, aged 68, was killed in a grenade attack at his home. According to local sources, unidentified people threw a grenade through a window in his house. According to the same sources, the victim was accused of sorcery by her neighbors.

##### **A person killed Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On 24 September 2018, on Ruziba hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, 45-year-old farmer Berthe Ntibanyiha, member of CNDD-FDD party, was strangled by unidentified people.

##### **A person killed in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On 24 September 2018, around midnight, on Rugaga sub-hill, Gakungu hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Marcelline Ntahongendera was killed and her husband Fabien Ntahizaniye tied up by a group of gunmen. According to sources on site, the latter crushed the head of this woman with the help of an object whose nature is unknown. According to the same sources, the victim's husband was arrested and jailed in Giharo police station cell for investigation. The perpetrators and the reason for this assassination are still unknown.

##### **A body found in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On 24 September 2018, around 8:00 pm on Bikinga hill, Ntunda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a body Pélagie was found by the roadside about 500 meters from her house. According to sources on site, the body had wounds on the neck. It was Côme, her 60-year-old husband, who had called his neighbors to find his dead wife. According to the same sources, the victim and her husband had been disputing fiercely in a bar on that hill the same day and they had returned together. Côme was arrested by the police and taken to Gitaramuka commune cell for investigation reasons.

### **A body found in Ndava commune, Mwaro province.**

On September 26, 2018, on Nyagatovu sub-hill, Rango hill, Buziracanda zone, Ndava commune, Mwaro province, a widow named Christine alias Digna was found dead hanging in her home.

### ***1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATORS***

#### **A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 September 2018 indicates that on 22 September 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kirehe hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Richard Ndagijimana, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up at his home by Imbonerakure, including Adrien Bukuru and Titora on the orders of Deus Bubahimana, communal representative of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, they went to his home and forced him out before beating him up, his clothes were torn and his right thigh ached. According to the same sources, they then left with him to an unknown destination and released him later. These Imbonerakure accused him of not joining CNDD-FDD party and robbed him a sum of 100,000 Bif. He went for treatment at CDS Kirehe.

#### **A person tortured in Bubanza commune and province**

On September 27, 2018, in Bubanza commune and province city, Salvator Ntakarusho, resident of Shari hill, was arrested, beaten and jailed in the provincial police station cell by police officers on the orders of a pastor of this locality. According to local sources, the victim who owns a small hydroelectric dam on Nyaburiza River has been accused of opposing forced irrigation of a pastor's cornfield with water from the dam. While the victim had just been taken to the police station, this pastor mobilized young Imbonerakure to surround his victim's home.

#### **A person tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On September 25, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, ex-FB retiree Charles Mpapi was beaten by two Imbonerakure at his bar at Rubimba hill, Kibago zone and commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, they accused him of refusing to contribute to the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, this victim told them that he could not pay twice because he had left his receipt at home.

#### **Two persons tortured in Marangara commune, Ngozi province**

On September 27, 2018, on Nyakibari hill, Marangara commune, Ngozi province, Reverend Miburo, from Makaba hill, and Moses Nduwimana from Nyakibari hill, both FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were all beaten and wounded on the head by Imbonerakure of this hill including named Jérôme, nicknamed Yoya and the communal agronomist. According to sources on site, the neighbors asked for help from the commune administrator and the police, but no one intervened that night. The next morning,

police officers came and arrested the victims who were later taken to Marangara commune cell. According to the same sources, since their arrest, their families have not been allowed to visit them.

### ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE***

#### **Two people arrested in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province**

On 25 September 2018, on Buhoro hill, Gatobo zone, Gashikanwa Commune, Ngozi province, Pascal Girukwishaka and Ezekiel, both FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, were arrested by a group of 12 Imbonerakure commanded by the hill chief and the hill leader of CNDF-FDD. Sources on site reveal that the latter harassed them and first jailed them at ECOFO Buhoro II. They were accused of having voted "NO" in the constitutional referendum. According to the same sources, they were taken to Gashikanwa commune police station cell in the morning of 26 September.

#### **A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On September 27, 2018, in Nyamirambo, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Alexis Hacimana nicknamed Nduwi, MSD party member and teacher at Matongo Communal High School was arrested by Matongo commune police post head on the orders of Mathieu Bazira, CNDD-FDD deputy provincial representative. According to sources on site, they took him out of a bus heading to Bujumbura to visit his family. After his arrest, he was jailed in Matongo commune police station. According to the same sources, he was accused of partaking in armed groups.

#### **A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On September 27, 2018, at Bandaga center in Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Elie Nsabimana, member of RANAC was arrested by Matongo commune police post head on the orders of Mathieu Bazira, deputy of the province representative of CNDD-FDD, accompanied by police officers and Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, he was heading to service at ECOFO Ryakabamba II. According to the same sources, he was taken to SNR cell in Kayanza.

### ***1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCES***

#### **A woman raped in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 September 2018 indicates that on 18 September 2018, on C. hill, Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, a mentally handicapped woman named N. raped by Audace Ciza, teacher at ECOFO Cagizo and CNDD-FDD party member. According to sources on site, the facts occurred in one of the classrooms of the school. According to the same sources, Audace Ciza was fined 500,000 Bif by Renovat Ruberandinzi, the communal secretary of the ruling party to remain free.

### **A person raped in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

On 28 September 2018, at Kabondo hill, Nyanza-Lac zone and commune, Makamba province, a baby-sitter J., about 13 years old, was raped by a house worker. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator took advantage of the absence of his employers to commit this act and he took off. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to Nyanza-Lac Hospital for treatment.

### ***1.5. RIGHT TO INFORMATION***

#### **Violation of the right to information in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

On the afternoon of September 25, 2018, at Avenue de l'Amitié, in the city center, in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, police officers entered the studio of Radio Isanganiro and ordered to stop a live program organized in synergy with Isanganiro and Rema FM radio stations and Iwacu press group in partnership with the program " La benevolencia Grands Lacs ". Three guests, including the Assistant to the Minister of Home Affairs and Patriotic Training, Terence Ntahiraja and Léonce Ngendakumana, Vice President of Sahwanya-FRODEBU party were participating to program were. The guests debated the fifth session of the inter-Burundian dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania. According to sources on site, during the broadcast, 4 policemen and a man in civilian clothes entered the studio and ordered Térence to go out and suspend the program. According to the same sources, these police officers left with the Minister's assistant and the reason for the suspension of this program was not communicated.

### ***II. SECURITY FACTS***

#### **A person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On 24 September 2018, at night, 50-year-old Immaculée Nankwahafi was killed by her husband at their home on Bikingi hill, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator of the crime was arrested and jailed in police cell in the same commune.

#### **Two person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On 30 September 2018, at about 4:00 pm, on Bugwana hill, Ntunda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, Eric Bimenyimana stabbed Valerie Ndinzemenshi, a 50-year-old woman, and her granddaughter Odette Irankunda, aged 6 months, also injuring the father of this little girl named Bivugire. According to sources on site, Eric went home and found this woman rocking her little girl and stabbed them. He later called Bivugire on the phone, Odette's father, telling him to come and receive a sum of 67,000 Bif he owed him. On his arrival, Bivugire wanted to enter the room to take a notebook in which he had mentioned this debt, and the criminal attacked him with his knife wounding him in the back and lower abdomen. According to the same sources, the neighbors intervened and evacuated the victim to Buhiga Hospital. The alleged perpetrator was almost lynched by the population had it not been the intervention of the police who shot in the air and took him to the commune cell.



### **A person attacked in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On September 27, 2018, a man named Egide, working for REGIDESO and living in Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura City, was attacked by unidentified people armed with machete in front of his gate when he came from accompanying a visitor. According to sources on site, he fled into his home but these armed men hunted him until inside the plot, breaking the windows of his house with a big stone. The identity and the reasons of this attack remain unknown.

### **Speech of incitement to violence in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 24, 2018 indicates that on September 5, 2018, Béatrice Niyibaruta, the administrator of Cendajuru commune in Cankuzo province, during the monthly security meeting with the heads of services and NGOs, called on the population to kill anyone accused of theft. According to sources on site, this communal authority explained by recalling that even the killers of Simon Bizimana, a young Christian Twinkwavu who had refused to be enlisted in the constitutional referendum and that of a thief of cows on the same hill, were not worried. According to the same sources, this authority said so while the head of CDS Twinkwavu had just reported a theft committed in his clinic. This authority reprimanded him that it was necessary to finish with the thief because they saved him by leading him to the cell. Participants in the meeting told him they feared prosecution.

### **Night patrols and curfew in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On September 24, 2018, in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a meeting of the Imbonerakure was held by the commune administrator Jeannette Ningabiye accompanied by the communal representative of the Imbonerakure named Manassé, his deputy Innocent Ntunzwenimana and Alexandre Ndamama, communal police commissioner. According to sources on site, they decided that every man in Gitaramuka commune city center must take part in the night patrols, that the curfew starts at 8:00 pm and that bars must close at 7:00 pm. According to the same sources, the Imbonerakure were ordered to ensure the rotation order in collaboration with the heads of hill heads. Additionally, they have determined that anyone who is apprehended traveling beyond 8:00 pm will be jailed and fined.

### **Clashes between Imbonerakure groups in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

On 24 September 2018, at about 11:00 am, on Kiranda hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, two groups of Imbonerakure clashed each other with sticks and clubs, injuring two others. According to local sources, the heart of the conflict is the identification of 138 vulnerable households that would be financially supported by "Mera nk'abandi" project. Among these households, only two batwa households were registered, the rest of the households being Hutu, which angered the Imbonerakure Batwa headed by Ngendakumana. These Imbonerakure Batwa attacked Imbonerakure Hutu and the fight ended with the intervention of a policeman, guard of the national representative of the project, who separated them by shooting in the air.

## **Forced contributions in commune and province Makamba**

On 25 September 2018, Gad Niyukuri, governor of Makamba province, forced butchers in Makamba commune and province town to pay 5,000 Bif for the construction of the province office. According to sources on site, this authority met them at Makamba stadium and told them that no one will go out without paying the said sum. According to the same sources, they did it not to get into trouble. In addition, the same authority met motorcyclists the next day at the same stadium by requiring them to contribute 5,000 Bif for those with permanent contracts and 2,000 Bif for temporary ones.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

Violations of human rights and allegations of violations following the deterioration of the political context since the beginning of the challenge of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term of President Pierre Nkurunziza continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Cases of killings, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted of opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes attributed to CNDD-FDD party members. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity by public authorities.